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Japanese. The English phrase must first be contemplated from a Japanese point of view, and this reclothed expression then translated into its equivalent.

The Japanese are anxious to air their proficiency in English, and vanity prompts them to a ceaseless display of their ignorance. The author gives many amusing illustrations, and among them some of the English signs over Japanese shops. Over a watch store is the sign: "Time Piece Snop, to sell the Insurable Watch." Another sign is "Carver & Gilder for Sale." An excellent restaurant gleams with the brutally humble announcement, "a grog shop, a pot house." A barber shop has the sign "Savings & Cuttings of hairs within." Many barber shops have the sign "babber sop."

The author taught English conversation and composition, reading, and dictation in a fine new building erected by the Government, where the other branches of instruction were German, Chinese, Japanese, general history, geography, mathematics, chemistry, physics, ethics, zoology, drawing, agriculture, gymnastics, and military tactics. The course requires five years, the boys coming to the school from a primary school and going thence to a still higher academy, where they are prepared for the Tokyo University.

The chief of the public exercises consists in a unanimous worshipful bow before the picture of the Emperor. Patriotism is strongly inculcated; it would be difficult to find anywhere a set of people more in love with their country than are the Japanese students.

Unfortunately, the schoolhouse burned down, and the boys stood weeping in group. It was found, however, that it was not the loss of the building but the burning of the Emperor's picture that filled them with grief.

It was a photograph that could be replaced for less than a dollar; but the fact that the Emperor was being treated with disrespect by the burning of his picture meant more to these frenzied young patriots than the destruction of their fine, new school.

Most of the illustrations are new, and all of them are well chosen. It is unfortunate that any good book like this should be without an index.

China Past and Present. By Edward Harper. xi and 424 pp.
Map and Index. Chapman & Hall, London, 1903.

Professor Parker, who has lived in China and other Oriental countries during most of his active life, and is now Professor of Chinese at the Owens College, Manchester, has an intimate knowledge of many phases of Chinese life and character. He speaks in this book from ample observation of many things Chinese, from the Imperial family to the peasant, and from religion to crime. But

while it will rank high among books on China, the volume would be more valuable if it were written less diffusely and if all of it had been prepared for the book, instead of many chapters for magazines and reviews. The result is a book that is not so compact and well balanced as it might be, and at least a fourth of it might be spared. Professor Parker has not been so much impressed with the evils of opium-smoking as some other writers. He says it is a waste of time and money, but he never observed any dreadful inroads upon the constitution. All who smoke are rather ashamed of it.

NOTES AND NEWS.

PRESIDENT PEARY received on the 29th of June a letter informing him that the Société de Géographie, Paris, had awarded to him by unanimous vote a gold medal, in recognition of the services rendered to geographical science by his remarkable journeys and explorations in the Polar Regions.

THE GAUSS IN CANADIAN WATERS.—Captain Bernier, who is in command of the Canadian Government expedition to Hudson Bay this summer, has written to a friend in this city that the Antarctic exploring steamship *Gauss*, purchased by Canada for the expedition, was in dry dock at St. Joseph de Lévis, near Quebec, and that about July 15 she would leave for the north with supplies and coal for the Government steamer *Neptune*, which wintered in Hudson Bay. It is said that the *Gauss* will probably take on board a detachment of mounted police, to be placed on some of the northern islands.

A MILD WINTER IN ALASKA.—Mr. Hugh Lee has written to President Peary from Cape Prince of Wales, Bering Strait, that the past winter in Northern Alaska was uncommonly mild. He says: "There has been very little ice in this part of the Arctic and the weather has been milder than for years past. The temperature was not lower than -30° . All winter long the shore of the Arctic Ocean for 40 miles north of here and probably more was, from time to time, entirely free from ice, with waves dashing on the shores as in summer. Of course the ice would come in with an on-shore wind; but Bering Sea, the Strait and the Arctic Ocean northeast of the Strait were remarkably free from floe ice."